Rockledge, Dec. 13, 1870.

My dear Wendell:

It is very pleasant to me to receive the congratulations of yourself and George on the completion of my sixty-sixth year yesterday. That completion is proof, indeed, that my earthly pilgrimage is drawing to a close; but what is in the order of nature furnishes no cause for regret, even though it sunder the dearest and holiest ties of life. My probation has already been extended more than a score of years beyond the average longevity of mankind. Yet, to the spirit, there is something illusory about this matter of age; for I do not feel any older than I did when I arrived at my fortieth year. As to bodily condition I am very conscious of a considerable change; the last four years having witnessed a good deal of abatement of my physical strength and activity, owing to the

injurious falls I received, and more or less of sickness all the way through.

My sudden and unexpected deliverance from my skin torments, through the treatment of Dr. White, is still to me cause for thanksgiving. I cannot describe the wretchedness of my feelings till relief came. Since then, I have somehow taken cold, and an attack of rheumatism has followed, which makes locomotion stiff and painful. I will certainly try the simple remedy which you suggest, and which it is gratifying to know has proved beneficial in Lucy's case. The author of the Thompsonian system of practice regarded the unadulterated Cayenne pepper as the purest and most efficacious stimulant yet discovered; and it is a component part of almost all Thompsonian remedies.

Please say to the Board of Officers of the New England Society of Orange, that I feel specially honored by the invitation they have so kindly extended to me to partic-

ipate in their celebration of Forefathers' Day, and that it would give me very great pleasure to accept the same, were it not that I am already engaged to join in a similar celebration at old Plymouth. The latter is to take place on the 21st inst.; yours, I suppose, is assigned for the 22d, which has been the customary date. The reason for the change is thus stated in a letter I have received from Dr. Drew:— "The Old Colony Club, which was formed in 1769, was the first, I think, to celebrate Forefathers' Day; and they made a mistake in changing the date from O. S. to N. S. All events which happened in the eighteenth century, previous to 1752, are made to correspond to the N. S. by adding eleven days to the original date; but the landing of the Pilgrims happening a century previous, only ten days should have been added to the original date, Dec. 11, 1620; but eleven days were erroneously added. For a long time it had been known that the

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date was really wrong; but not until 1850 did the Pilgrim Society vote to celebrate the 21st for all future time.

Possibly the Orange Society, acting upon this rectification, may deem it advisable to substitute the 21st for the 22d; but it is more than probable that its arrangements, as already made, will admit of no such change the present year.

The last letter from Harry has been received to-day. He reports no improvement in the condition of his head, though better in some other respects. His physician gives him no encouragement to remain any longer, as he can fulfill the prescribed treatment (if so disposed) when at home. He intends returning to Munich to spend a short time with his aunt and sister, and will not probably reach here before the middle of Jan'y.

Your mother is better of her influenza. Her love, [redacted] and mine, and Fanny's to you and George, and Lucy, &c., &c.

Your affectionate Father.